

# Putting It All Together Nutrition Education You Can Use

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University of Vermont  
Extension

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

# UVM Extension

[UVM Extension](#) integrates higher education, research and outreach to help Vermonters put knowledge to work for their families and in homes, farms, businesses, towns and the natural environment. Faculty and staff, located in offices around the state, help improve the quality of life of Vermonters.

## Community Nutrition Education

- [EFNEP](#) (Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program)
- SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education)
- Grants, research, fee-for-service

# Grounding

1. Setting Up Cooking Demonstration Space
2. Budget-Friendly Cooking
3. Effective Strategies for Quick, Healthy, and Prepared Meals

# Agenda

1. Chronic disease
2. DGA Diet Recommendations & Research
  1. Vegetables
  2. Whole grains
  3. Saturated fat
  4. Added Sugar
  5. Sodium
3. Key Take-Aways
4. Recipe modifications
5. Questions

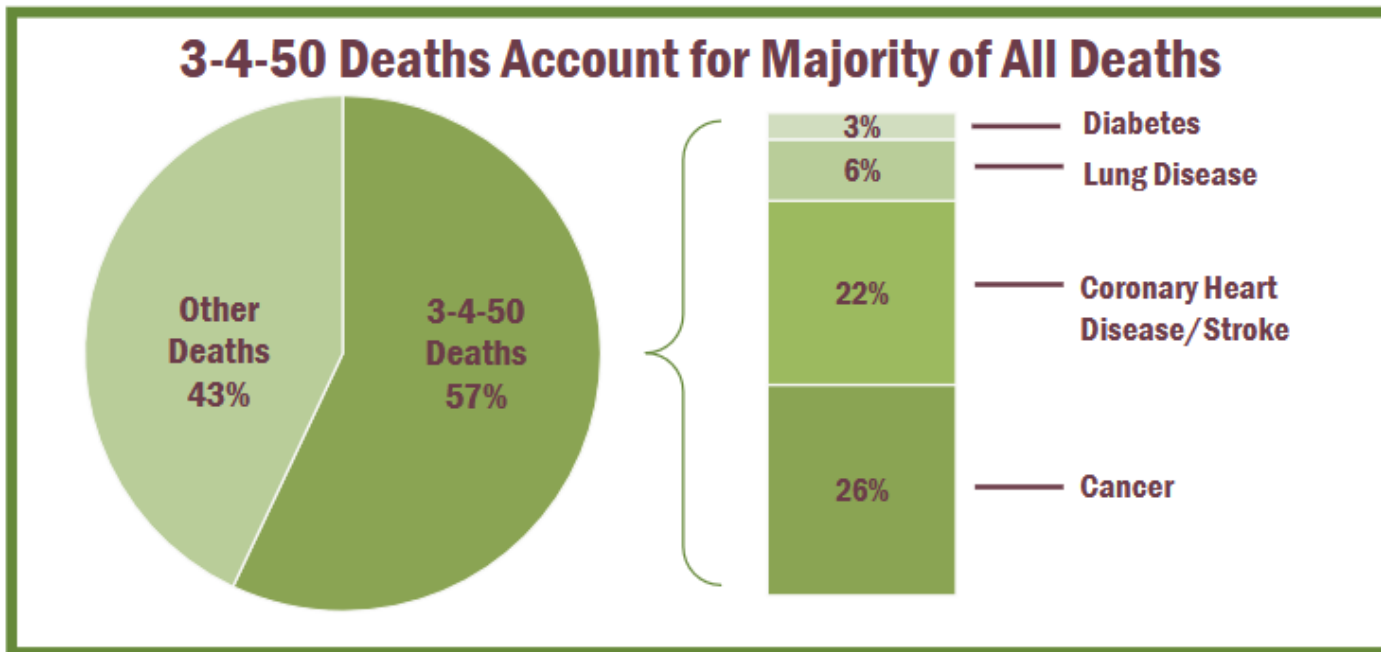


# Chronic Disease in the US<sup>1,2</sup>

Chronic diseases are conditions that last 1 year+ & require ongoing medical attention and/or limit ADLs

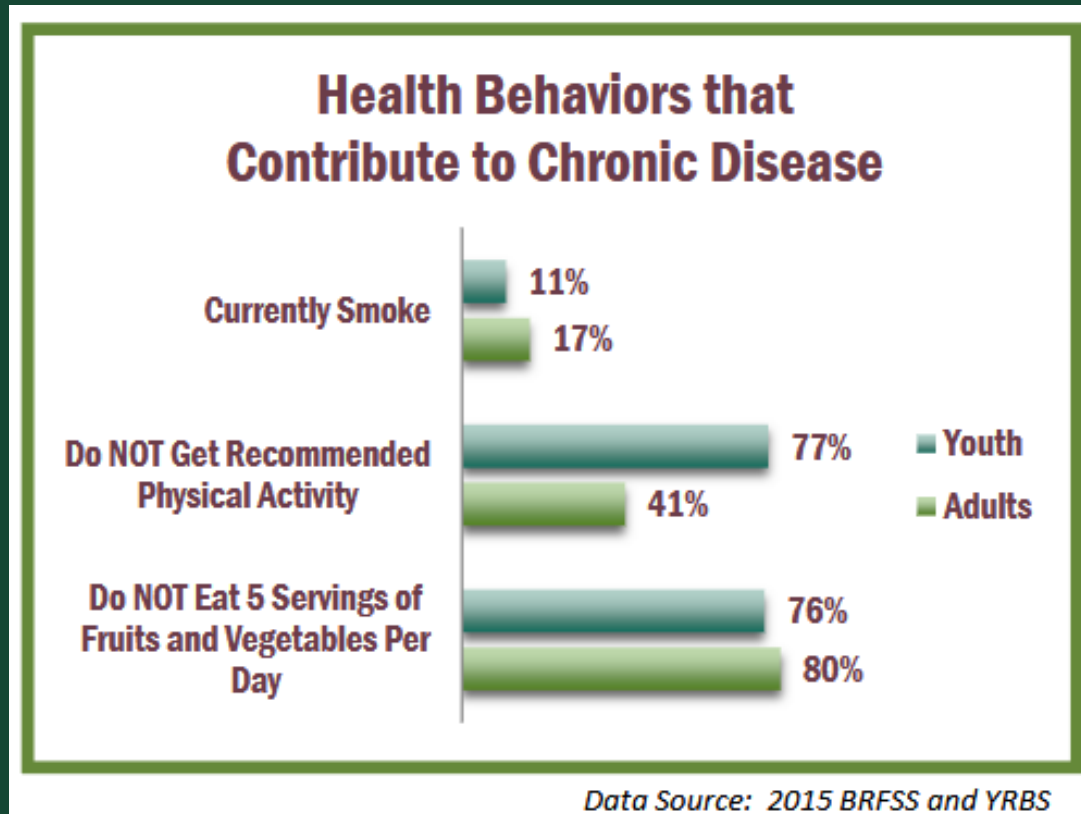
- 6 in 10 Americans, 1 chronic disease
- 4 in 10 Americans, 2+ chronic diseases
- 5 of top 10 leading deaths preventable
- ~90% of health care costs for management & treatment
- Diet large contributing factor

# Chronic Disease in Vermont<sup>3</sup>

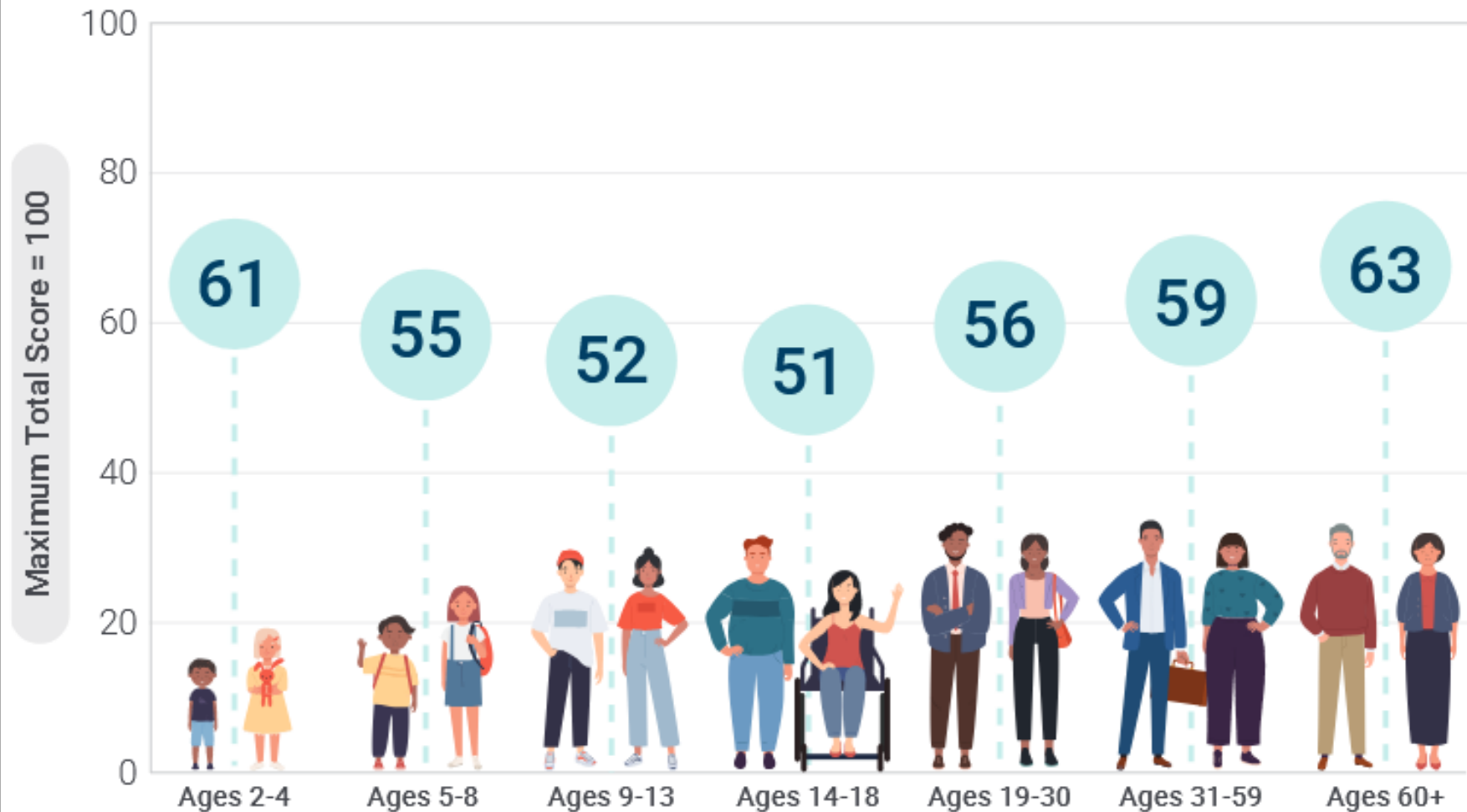


*Data Source: 2014 Vermont Vital Statistics, Provisional*

# Chronic Disease in Vermont<sup>3</sup>



# Adherence of the U.S. Population to the *Dietary Guidelines* Across Life Stages, as Measured by Average Total Healthy Eating Index-2015 Scores<sup>4</sup>

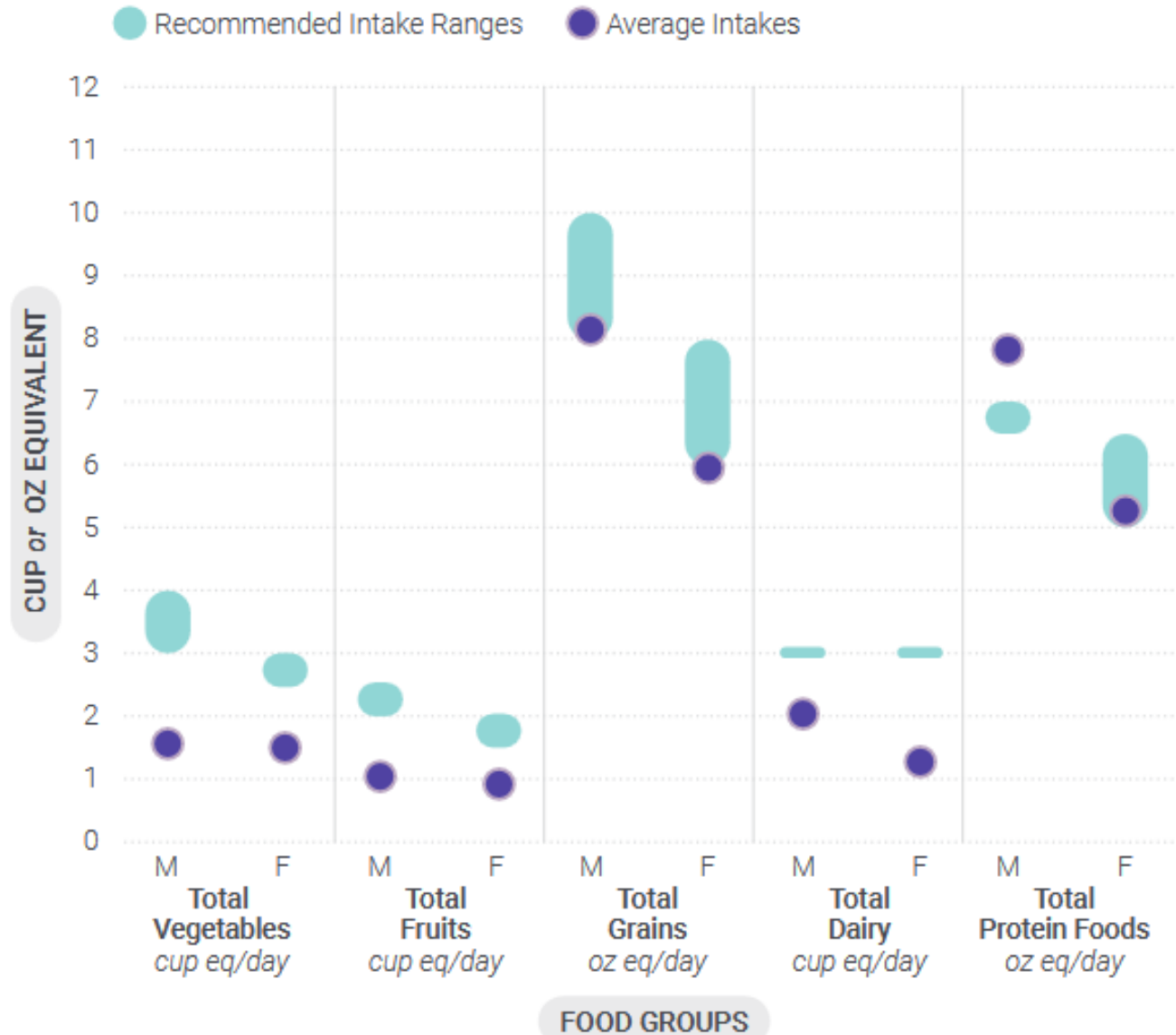


**NOTE:** HEI-2015 total scores are out of 100 possible points. A score of 100 indicates that recommendations on average were met or exceeded. A higher total score indicates a higher quality diet.

**Data Source:** Analysis of What We Eat in America, NHANES 2015-2016, ages 2 and older, day 1 dietary intake data, weighted.

# Current Intakes: Ages 19 Through 30 <sup>4</sup>

## Average Daily Food Group Intakes Compared to Recommended Intake Ranges

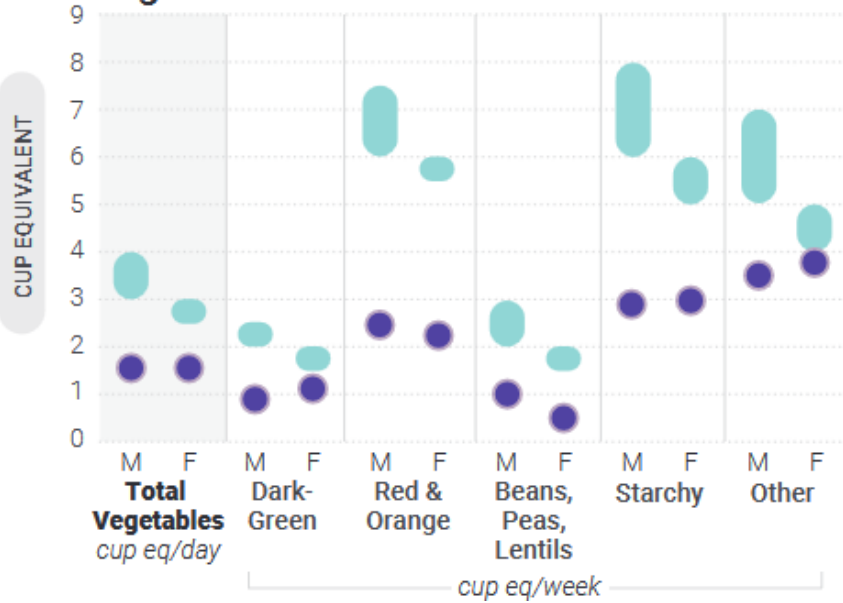




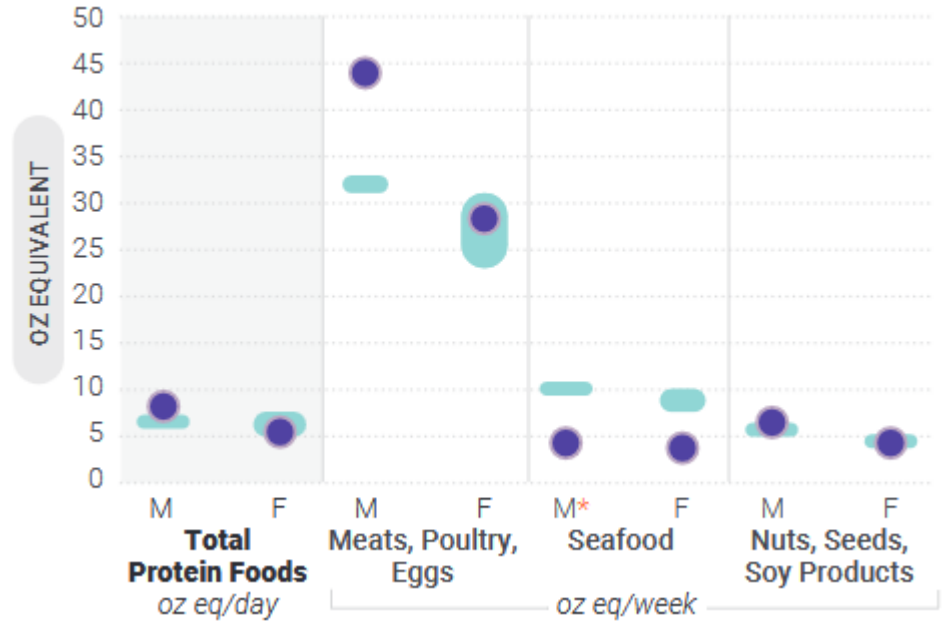
**Average Intakes of Subgroups Compared to Recommended Intake Ranges:  
Ages 19 Through 30**

● Recommended Intake Ranges ● Average Intakes

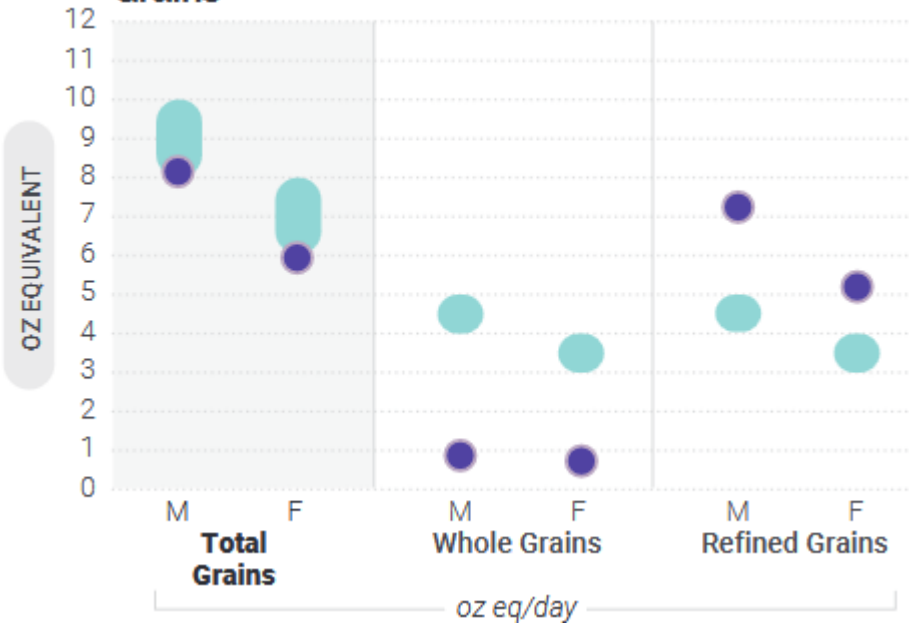
**Vegetables**



**Protein Foods**

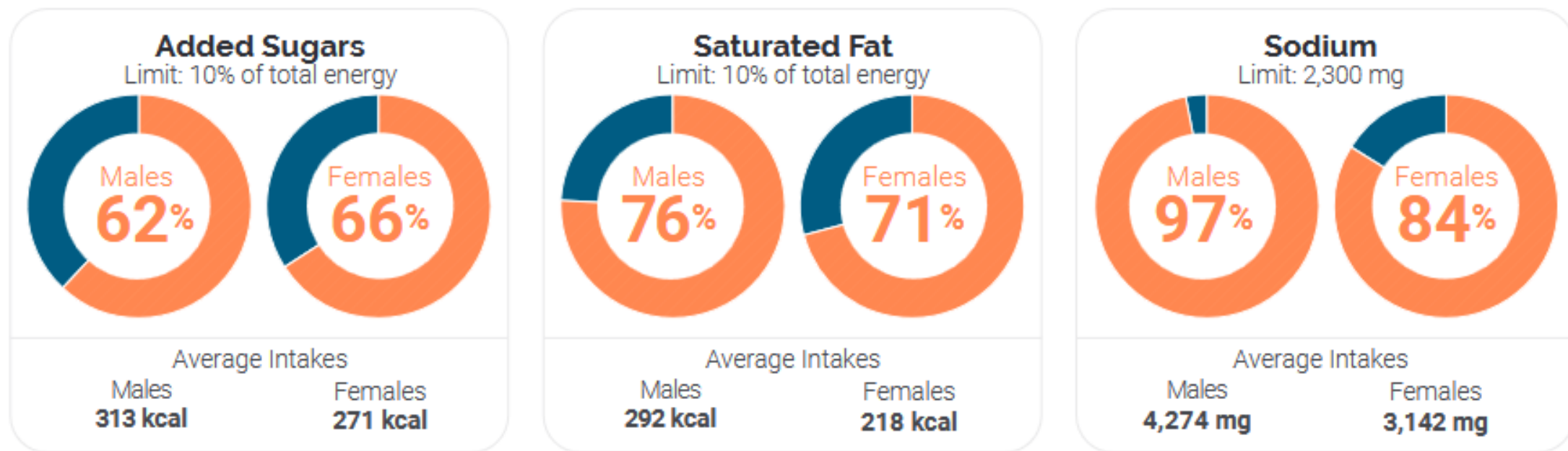


**Grains**



## Percent Exceeding Limits of Added Sugars, Saturated Fat, and Sodium

● Exceeding Limit ● Within Recommended Limit



**Data Sources:** *Average Intakes and HEI-2015 Scores:* Analysis of What We Eat in America, NHANES 2015-2016, day 1 dietary intake data, weighted. *Recommended Intake Ranges:* Healthy U.S.-Style Dietary Patterns (see [Appendix 3](#)). *Percent Exceeding Limits:* What We Eat in America, NHANES 2013-2016, 2 days dietary intake data, weighted.



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# DGA Key Recommendations<sup>4</sup>

## ↑ Nutrient Dense Foods

*Meet food group needs with nutrient-dense foods and beverages*

- Vegetables – all colors!
- Fruits – whole
- Grains –  $\geq$  half whole grains
- Dairy – low fat or fortified alternatives
- Protein – lean meats, plant-based
- Oils – plant-based + food-based

## ↓ Sat. Fats, Sugars, Sodium & Alcohol

*Limit foods & beverages high in these components*

- Saturated fat - <10% of cals
- Added sugars - <10% of cals
- Sodium - <2,300mg
- Alcohol -  $\leq$ 2 drinks/day men  
 $\leq$ 1 drink/day women

# Vegetables<sup>4</sup>

CALORIE LEVEL OF PATTERN <sup>a</sup>	1,600	1,800	2,000	2,200	2,400	2,600	2,800	3,000
FOOD GROUP OR SUBGROUP <sup>b</sup>	Daily Amount of Food From Each Group (Vegetable and protein foods subgroup amounts are per week.)							
Vegetables (cup eq/day)	2	2 ½	2 ½	3	3	3 ½	3 ½	4
	Vegetable Subgroups in Weekly Amounts							
Dark-Green Vegetables (cup eq/wk)	1 ½	1 ½	1 ½	2	2	2 ½	2 ½	2 ½
Red & Orange Vegetables (cup eq/wk)	4	5 ½	5 ½	6	6	7	7	7 ½
Beans, Peas, Lentils (cup eq/wk)	1	1 ½	1 ½	2	2	2 ½	2 ½	3
Starchy Vegetables (cup eq/wk)	4	5	5	6	6	7	7	8
Other Vegetables (cup eq/wk)	3 ½	4	4	5	5	5 ½	5 ½	7

# Vegetables<sup>5</sup>

↑ Veg variety & amount ↓ CHD

- Carotenoids ↓ inflammation & adiposity
- Lycopene ↓ LDL cholesterol
- Nitrate → nitric oxide = cardioprotective
- Phenolic compounds = antioxidant, anti-atherogenic
- Flavonoids ↓ inflammation
- Folate = cardioprotective



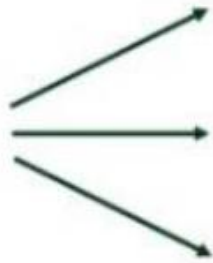
Photo: [Markus Spiske on Unsplash](#)

# Vegetables<sup>6</sup>

## Potential benefits on CVD prevention

## Main effects

### Tomatoes




- improvement of the metabolic profile (lipid and glucose metabolism)
- ↑ nitric oxide bioavailability and blood flow
- ↓ inflammatory response
- ↓ oxidative stress markers
- ↓ Lipid peroxidation

- Antioxidant
- Anti-inflammatory
- Antiatherosclerotic
- Antiplatelet
- Anti-apoptotic
- Antihypertensive

*Bioactive compounds: phenolic compounds (phenolic acids and flavonoids) and carotenoids (lycopene,  $\beta$ -carotene, lutein and zeaxanthin)*

### Garlic



- 
- ↓ LDL-c
  - ↓ BP
  - ↓ inflammatory response
  - ↓ oxidative stress markers

- Antioxidant
- Anti-inflammatory
- Anti-cancer
- Anti-bacterial
- Anti-viral
- Anti-fungal
- Anti-microbial

*Bioactive compounds: sulfur compounds such as S-allyl-cysteine sulfoxide (thiosulfinates)*

## Broccoli



- improve the lipid profile and and glucose metabolism
- ↓ Pro-inflammatory cytokines (TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-6, IL-1 $\beta$  and CRP )
- ↓ oxidative stress markers

**Bioactive compounds:** carotenoids (lutein, zeaxanthin,  $\beta$ -carotene), phenolic compounds (mainly flavonoids) sulphur glycosides

Antioxidant  
Anti-inflammatory  
Anticarcinogenic

## Cocoa



- ↑ insulin sensitivity
- improve the lipid profile
- ↓ BP
- ↓ inflammatory response
- ↓ oxidative stress markers
- improvement of endothelial function and arterial stiffness

**Bioactive compounds:** methylxanthines and flavan-3-ols (including proanthocyanidins)

Antioxidant  
Anti-inflammatory  
Antidiabetic  
Antiplatelet  
Antihypertensive

# Vegetables

- Can't have too much!
- Aim for variety
- Half your plate
- 2 colors / meal
- Be creative



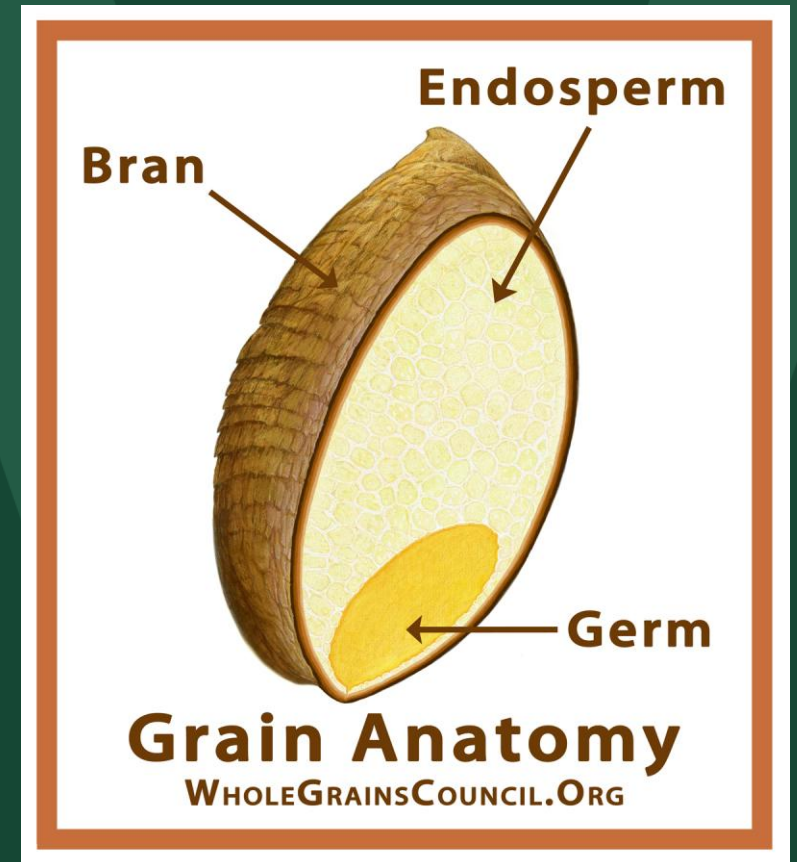
Photo: [Getty Images on Unsplash](#)



# Whole Grains<sup>7</sup>

“...if whole grains were consumed in the amounts recommended in the Food Patterns, whole grains would provide substantial percentages of several key nutrients, such as about

- 32 percent of dietary fiber,
- 42 percent of iron,
- 35 percent of folate,
- 29 percent of magnesium, and
- 16 percent of vitamin A.”<sup>x</sup>



# Whole Grains<sup>8</sup>

## Refined & Enriched Grain<sup>x</sup>

- Bran & germ removal ↓ fiber & mineral content significantly
- Excess niacin ↑ risk for CVDx
- Unmetabolized folic acid increase risk food allergiesx



Photo: [Whole Grains Council](#)

## INGREDIENTS

**INGREDIENTS:** UNBLEACHED ENRICHED FLOUR (WHEAT FLOUR, MALTED BARLEY FLOUR, NIACIN, REDUCED IRON, THIAMIN MONONITRATE, RIBOFLAVIN, FOLIC ACID), WATER, SUGAR, WHEAT GLUTEN, CELLULOSE, YEAST, CONTAINS 2% OR LESS OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING: CALCIUM SULFATE, SALT, CULTURED WHEAT FLOUR, SOYBEAN OIL, CALCIUM CARBONATE, GUAR GUM, DOUGH CONDITIONERS (CONTAINS ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: MONOGLYCERIDES, ENZYMES, ASCORBIC ACID), VINEGAR, MONOCALCIUM PHOSPHATE, SODIUM CITRATE, NIACIN, IRON (FERROUS SULFATE), THIAMIN HYDROCHLORIDE, RIBOFLAVIN, SOY LECITHIN, FOLIC ACID, NATAMYCIN (TO RETARD SPOILAGE).

# Whole Grains<sup>9</sup>

## Mechanisms

Fiber, resistant starch & oligosaccharides

- ↓ pH = ↑ good bacteria

Fiber

- Slows absorption = moderate insulin response
- Improved insulin sensitivity
- Traps & removes cholesterol

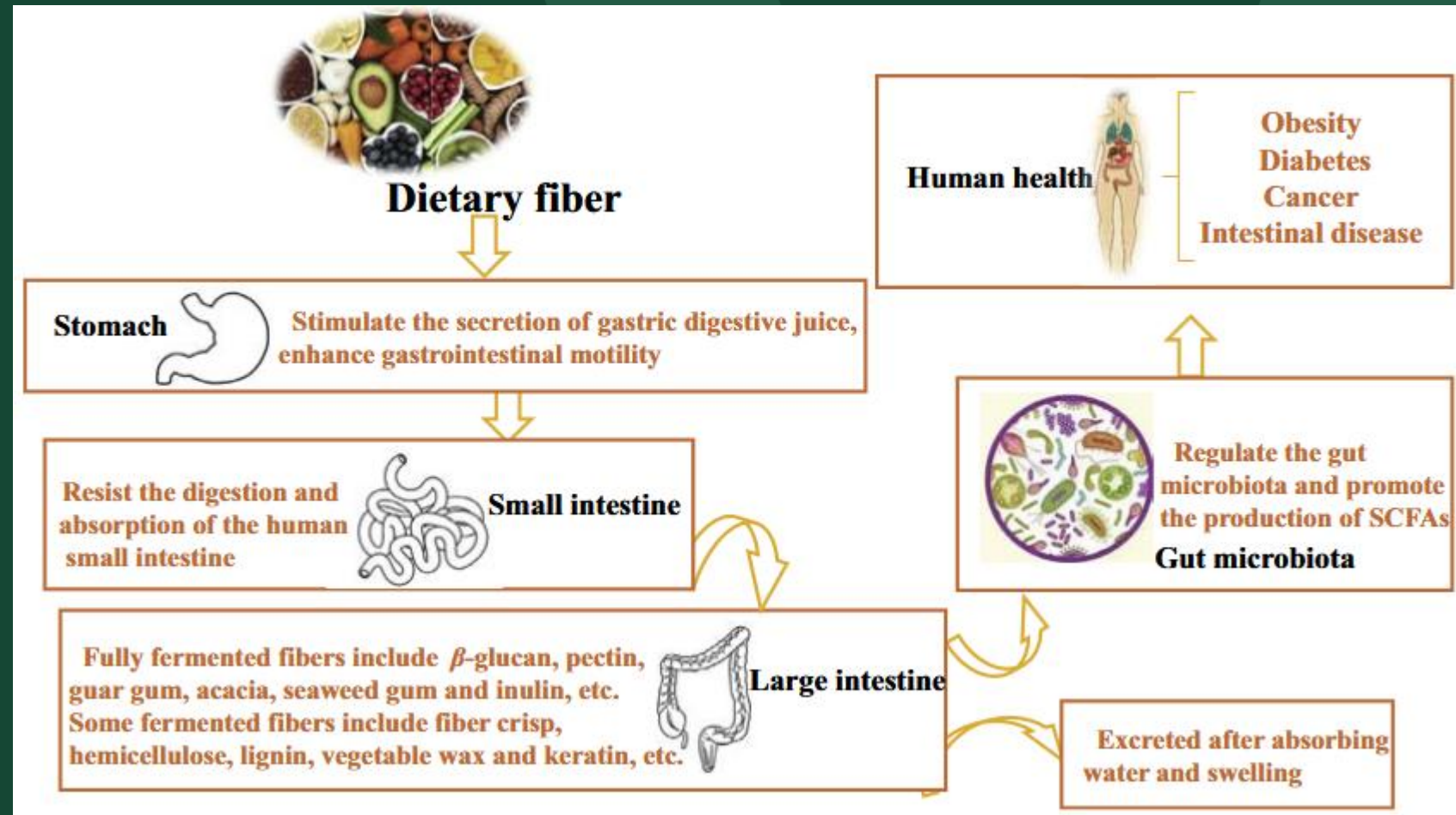


Photo: [Y. He et al., 2022](#)

# Whole Grains<sup>10</sup>

**TABLE 4** Cross-sectional and prospective evidence on the association between whole grain intake and CVD

Cohort/reference	Higher whole grain intake is associated with lower					Blood lipids
	CVD mortality	CHD/CAD risk/mortality	Ischemic stroke	Nonfatal MI	Blood pressure/hypertension	
Cross-sectional studies						
MESA (30)	— <sup>1</sup>	—	—	—	NS <sup>2</sup>	NS
BLSA (31)	—	—	—	—	NS	X <sup>3</sup>
HPFS & NHS II (51)	—	—	—	—		X
Elderly population in Boston (29)	—	—	—	—	NS	NS
Tehran Lipid and Glucose Study (34, 35)	—	—	—	—	X	X
Framingham Offspring Study (25)	—	—	—	—	NS	X
Yi Migrant Study (52)	—	—	—	—	X	X
Prospective studies						
HPFS (53)	—	—	NS	—	X	—
NHS (54)	—	—	NS	—	X	—
CARDIA Study (55)	—	—	—	—	X	—
HPFS (56)	—	X	—	—	—	—
Physician Health Study (57)	X	—	—	—	—	—
Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study (ARIC) (58)	—	X	NS	—	—	—
NHS (59)	—	—	NS	—	—	—
Iowa Women's Health Study (60)	X	X	—	—	—	—
NHS (61)	—	X	—	—	—	—
Adventist Health Study (62)	—	X	—	X	—	—

<sup>1</sup> —, Not tested in the study.

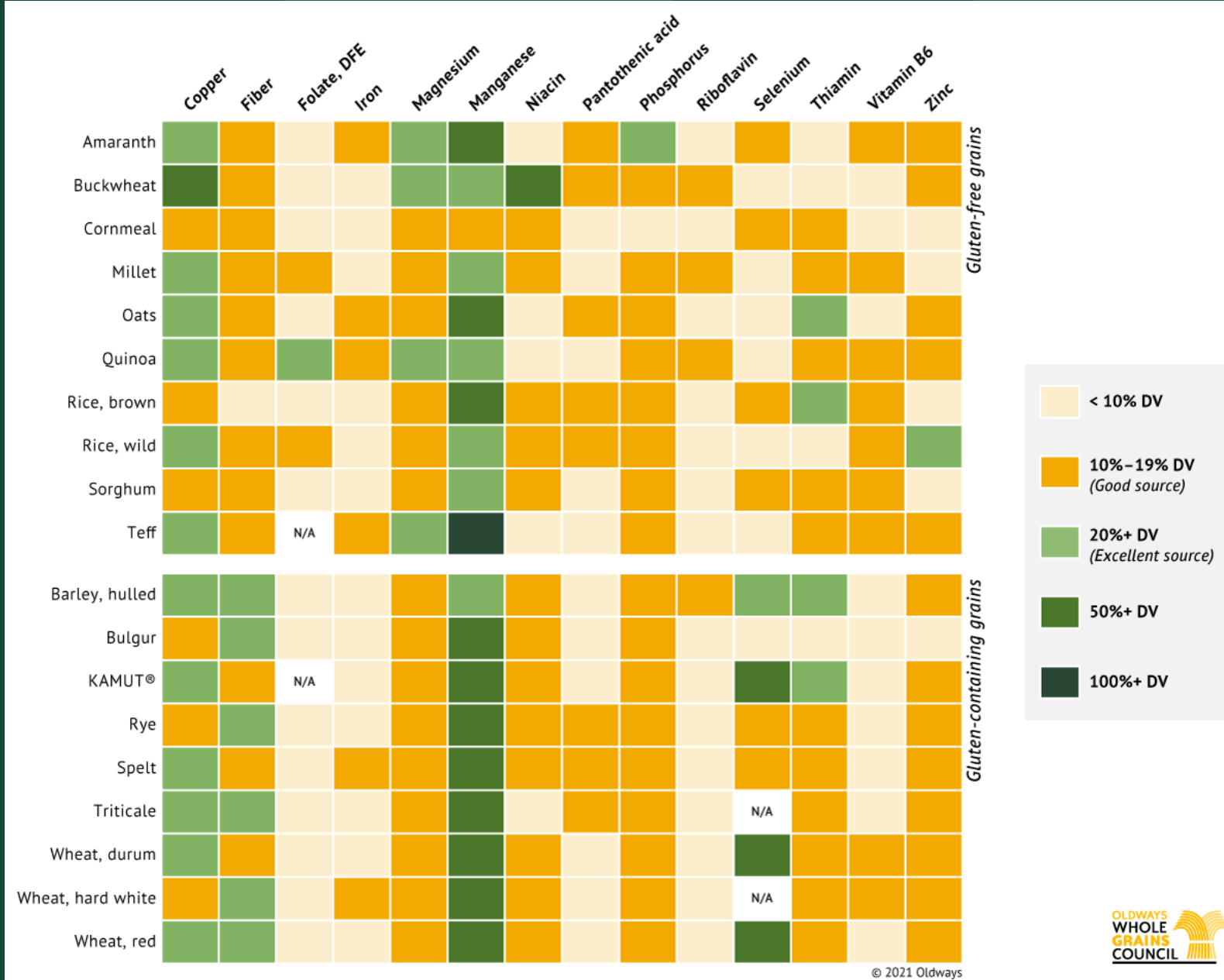
<sup>2</sup> NS, No significant association found,  $P \geq 0.05$ .

<sup>3</sup> X, Significant association found,  $P < 0.05$ .

# Whole Grains<sup>11</sup>

## Beyond Fiber

- 3 servings of whole grains/day  
↓ risk of colorectal cancer
- WG > Fiber
  - Vit E
  - Selenium
  - Copper
  - Zinc
  - Lignans
  - Phytoestrogens
  - Phenolic compounds



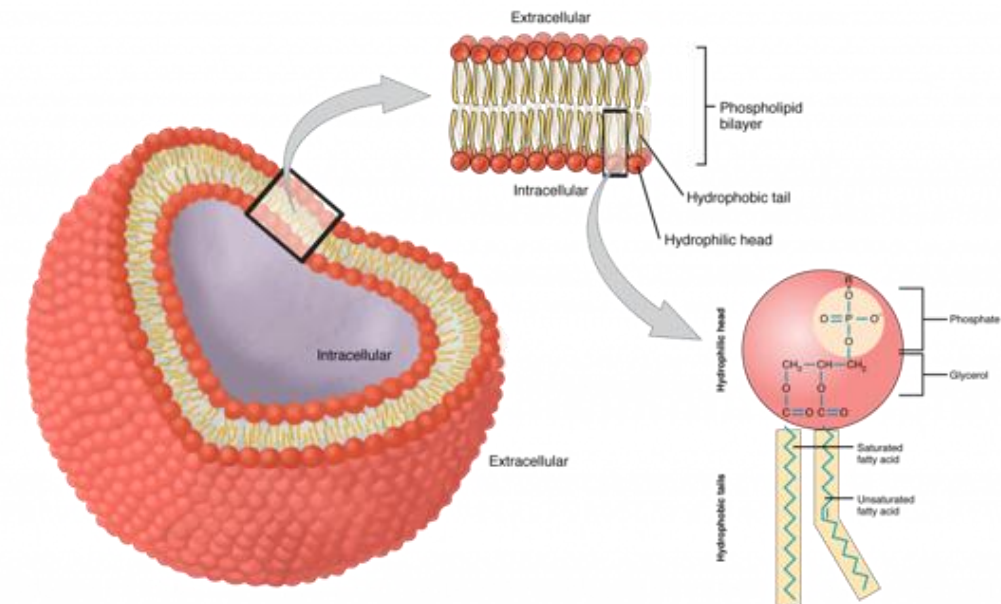
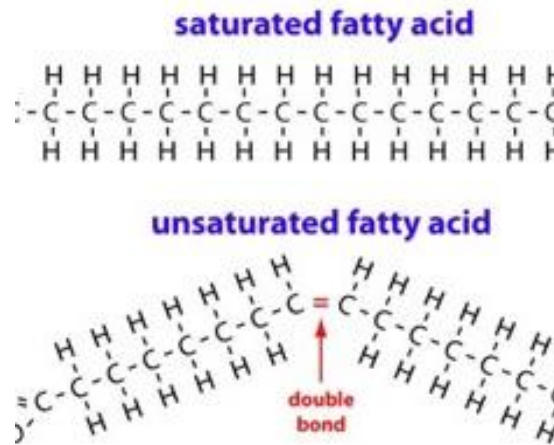
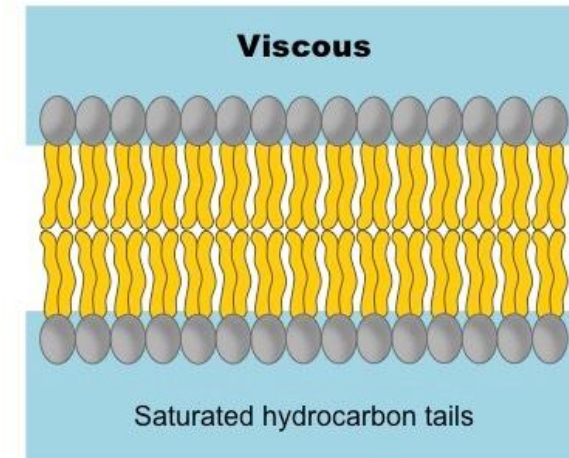
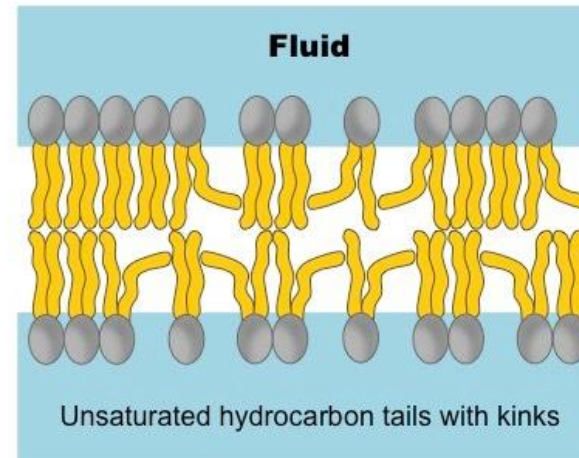
# Whole Grains

- Always look for “WHOLE [grain]”
- Be skeptical
  - Organic flour
  - Stoneground
  - Multigrain
  - Wheat flour
  - Bran or wheat germ
- Sub half WW for white flour
- Sub WW pasta, crackers, etc.



# Saturated Fats

- Found in animal products & some plant
- Fats in body make up membrane structures



# Saturated Fats

## Current Guidance

- DGAs <10% calories
- AHA <7% calories
- Replace with “good” fats, mono & poly-unsaturated

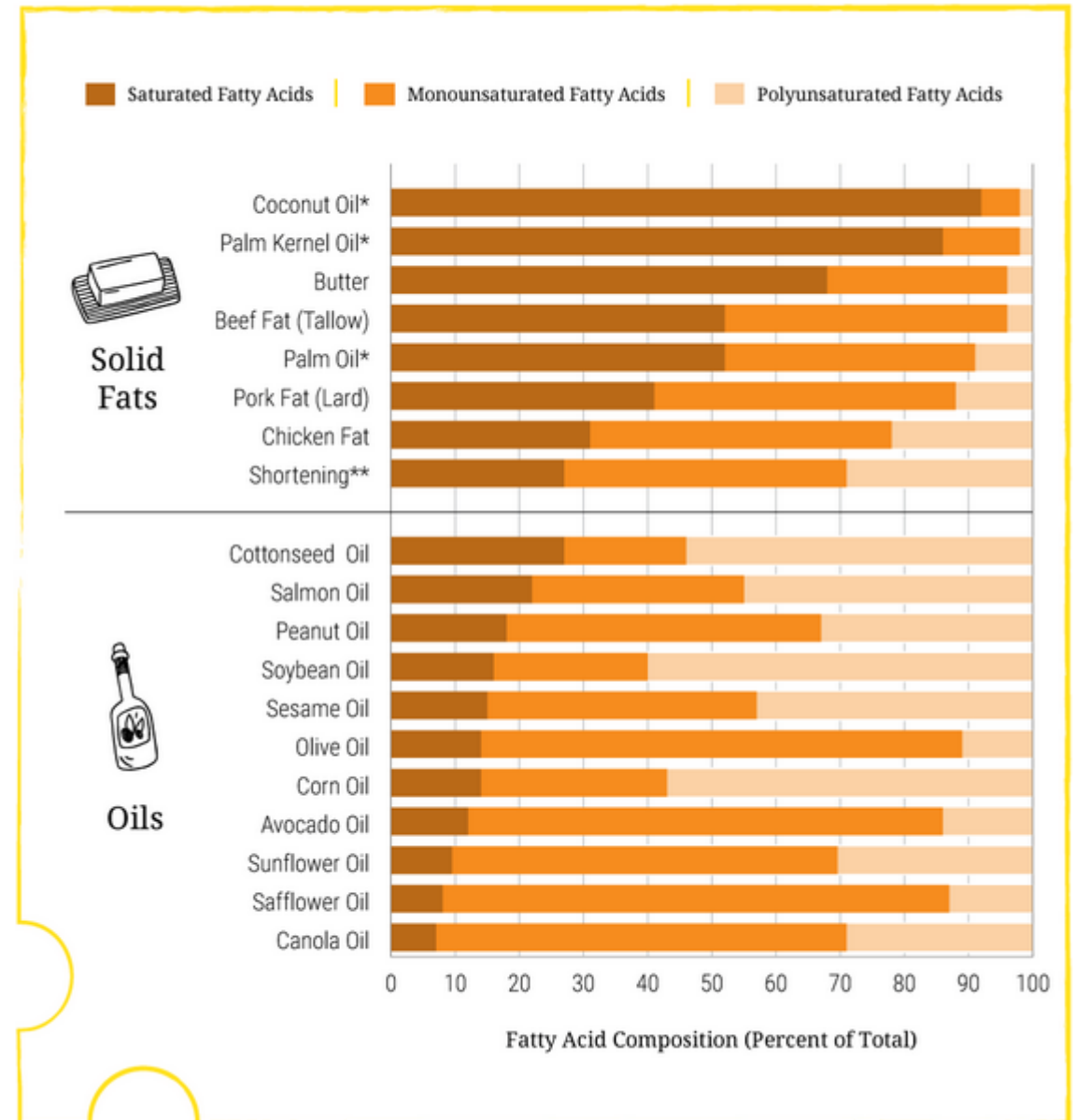


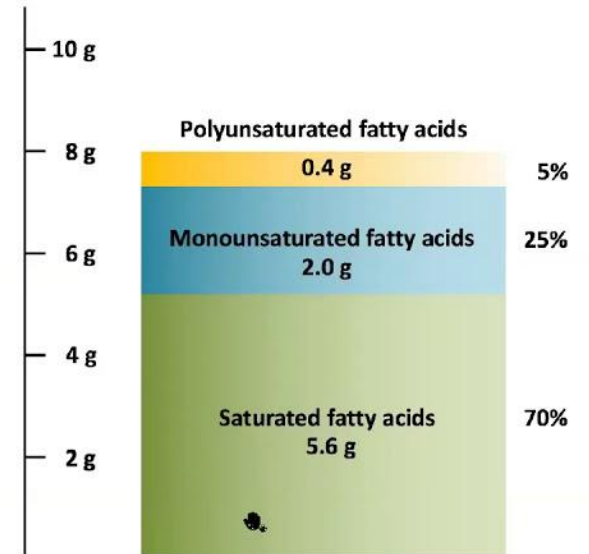
Photo: [Open Oregon](#)



# Saturated Fats<sup>12, 13</sup>

- Dairy saturated fat – beneficial associations with:
  - Body fat
  - Inflammation markers
  - HDL cholesterol
  - Triglycerides
  - HDL : TG
  - Lipid particles
- Literature review, no support for CVD risk
  - Positive effect on type 2 diabetes
  - Overall diet quality most important

## Dairy fat and its composition



8 oz. whole (3.25%) milk

Photo: [eOrganic, 2020.](#)

# Saturated Fats

- DGAs still recommend limiting
- Top sources less healthy
- Full fat dairy 👍



# Added Sugars<sup>14</sup>

- Sugar often added to foods to ↑ flavor & shelf life
- Main sources: processed foods & beverages
- JAMA study: 17-21% of cals, 38% ↑ risk CVD death
- High sugar impacts on body:
  - Fatty liver disease
  - High blood pressure
  - Chronic inflammation
  - Weight gain

<b>Nutrition Facts</b>	
8 servings per container	
<b>Serving size</b>	<b>2/3 cup (55g)</b>
<b>Amount per serving</b>	
<b>Calories</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>% Daily Value*</b>	
<b>Total Fat</b> 8g	<b>10%</b>
Saturated Fat 1g	<b>5%</b>
<i>Trans</i> Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 160mg	<b>7%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 37g	<b>13%</b>
Dietary Fiber 4g	<b>14%</b>
Total Sugars 12g	
Includes 10g Added Sugars	<b>20%</b>
<b>Protein</b> 5g	
Vitamin D 2mcg	10%
Calcium 260mg	20%
Iron 8mg	45%
Potassium 240mg	6%

\* The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.

# Added Sugar

How much?

- Not a required nutrient
- Recommendations
  - DGA:  $\leq 10\%$  calories
  - AHA: 100 cals women / 150 cals men

**1g sugar = 4 calories**

**4g sugar = 1 teaspoon (16 cals)**



## DGAs 2,000 Calorie Diet

200 calories / 4 cals in 1 g = 50g sugar

50g sugar / 4g in 1 teaspoon = **12.5 teaspoons**

## American Heart Association

100 calories / 4 cal in 1 g = 25g sugar

25g sugar / 4g in 1 teaspoon = **~6 teaspoons**

150 calories / 4 cal in 1 g = 37.5 g

37.5 g sugar / 4g in 1 teaspoon = **~9 teaspoons**

# Added Sugar

- Molasses
- Brown sugar
- Honey
- Corn syrup
- Corn sweetener
- High-fructose corn syrup
- Invert sugar
- Malt sugar
- Syrup sugar ending in “ose”: dextrose, fructose, sucrose, maltose, glucose, lactose

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<b>Nutrition Facts</b>				
about 3 servings per container				
<b>Serving size</b>	<b>1/2 cup mix (78g)</b> (makes 2 muffins)			
<b>Calories</b>	Per 1/2 cup mix	Per baked portion		
	<b>330</b>	<b>360</b>		
	<b>% DV*</b>	<b>% DV*</b>		
<b>Total Fat</b>	10g	<b>13%</b>	12g	<b>15%</b>
Saturated Fat	4g	<b>20%</b>	5g	<b>25%</b>
Trans Fat	0g		0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b>	5mg	<b>2%</b>	80mg	<b>27%</b>
<b>Sodium</b>	690mg	<b>30%</b>	730mg	<b>32%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b>	56g	<b>20%</b>	57g	<b>21%</b>
Dietary Fiber	2g	<b>7%</b>	2g	<b>7%</b>
Total Sugars	15g		17g	
Incl. Added Sugars	15g	<b>30%</b>	15g	<b>30%</b>
<b>Protein</b>	4g		7g	
Vitamin D	0mcg	0%	0.6mcg	4%
Calcium	110mg	8%	150mg	10%
Iron	1.7mg	10%	2mg	10%
Potassium	60mg	2%	130mg	2%

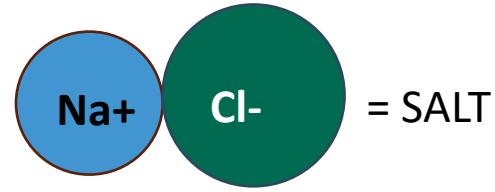
\*The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.

**INGREDIENTS:** WHEAT FLOUR, DEGERMED YELLOW CORN MEAL, SUGAR, LARD (LARD, HYDROGENATED LARD, BHT PRESERVATIVE, CITRIC ACID PRESERVATIVE), CONTAINS LESS THAN 2% OF: BAKING SODA, TRICALCIUM PHOSPHATE, SODIUM ACID PYROPHOSPHATE, MONOCALCIUM PHOSPHATE, SALT, WHEAT STARCH, NIACIN, REDUCED IRON, THIAMINE MONONITRATE, RIBOFLAVIN, FOLIC ACID.

**CONTAINS: WHEAT**


CHELSEA MILLING COMPANY • 201 W. NORTH ST., CHELSEA, MI 48118  
CONTAINS BIOENGINEERED FOOD INGREDIENTS

# Sodium<sup>15</sup>




- Role
  - Transmit nerve impulses
  - Contract/relax muscle
  - Fluid & mineral balance
- ~500mg essential for vital functions
- Health implications
  - Hypertension
  - Damage to arteries and organs

### What is blood pressure?



Blood pressure is the force exerted against arterial walls as the heart pumps blood.

### What is *high* blood pressure?



High blood pressure stretches arteries beyond a healthy limit.

*Arteries are muscular-walled blood vessels that carry blood away from the heart.*

#### HOW DOES HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE AFFECT YOUR HEALTH?

Chronic overstretching of arteries has many negative effects:

- Tears and scarring
- Weak spots that rupture easily
- Blood clot formation
- Increased workload on the heart
- Plaque build-up

BLOOD PRESSURE	NORMAL	AT RISK	HIGH	
<b>SYSTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE (SBP)</b> Pressure exerted as the heart contracts, during a heart beat	< 120 mm Hg	120-129 mm Hg	130-139 mm Hg	≥ 140 mm Hg
	AND	AND	OR	OR
<b>DIASTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE (DBP)</b> Pressure exerted when the heart is at rest, between heart beats	< 80 mm Hg	< 80 mm Hg	80-89 mm Hg	≥ 90 mm Hg
	<i>Normotensive</i>	<i>Prehypertensive</i>	<i>Hypertensive Stage 1</i>	<i>Hypertensive Stage 2</i>

# Sodium<sup>16</sup>

- Recommended Amount
  - Adequate Intake (AI)  
**1,500mg**
  - Chronic Disease Risk Reduction (CDRR)  
**2,300mg**
- Most consume more than AI and CDRR
- 1 teaspoon = ~2300mg
- 2/3 teaspoon = 1500mg

DRI Group	AI (mg/d)	CDRR (mg/d) <sup>a</sup>	% of Population with Sodium Intake							
			> AI		> CDRR		> 4,100 mg/d		> 5,000 mg/d	
			U.S.	Canada	U.S.	Canada	U.S.	Canada	U.S.	Canada
Males, 19–30 years	1,500	2,300	99	99	98	95	56	26	25	6
Males, 31–50 years	1,500	2,300	99	96	98	79	56	21	26	7
Males, 51–70 years	1,500	2,300	99	98	96	80	39	11	14	2
Males, > 70 years	1,500	2,300	99	98	90	70	17	2	3	1
Males, ≥ 19 years	1,500	2,300	99	97	97	80	47	17	20	5
Females, 19–30 years	1,500	2,300	99	96	89	51	7	1	1	1
Females, 31–50 years	1,500	2,300	99	97	83	56	9	1	1	1
Females, 51–70 years	1,500	2,300	98	87	78	41	5	1	1	1
Females, > 70 years	1,500	2,300	96	85	65	34	2	1	1	1
Pregnant	1,500	2,300	99	98	94	70	16	1	2	1
Lactating	1,500	2,300	99	98	99	76	22	1	1	1
Females, ≥ 19 years	1,500	2,300	99	92	80	46	6	1	1	1
Both sexes, ≥ 19 years	1,500	2,300	99	94	88	65	27	7	9	1

# Sodium<sup>17</sup>

Top sources

- Sandwiches
- Pizza, breads, tortillas
- Soups
- Cold cuts/cured meats
- Chips, crackers, snacks
- Desserts, sweet snacks
- Condiments & gravies

What It Says	What It Means
Salt/Sodium-Free	Less than 5 mg of sodium per serving
Very Low Sodium	35 mg of sodium or less per serving
Low Sodium	140 mg of sodium or less per serving
Reduced Sodium	At least 25% less sodium than the regular product
Light in Sodium or Lightly Salted	At least 50% less sodium than the regular product
No-Salt-Added or Unsalted	No salt is added during processing – but these products may not be salt/sodium-free unless stated

Photo: FDA [Sodium in Your Diet](#)

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Trans Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 160mg	<b>7%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 37g	<b>13%</b>
Dietary Fiber 4g	<b>14%</b>
Total Sugars 12g	
Includes 10g Added Sugars	<b>20%</b>
<b>Protein</b> 3g	
Vitamin D 2mcg	10%
Calcium 260mg	20%
Iron 8mg	45%
Potassium 240mg	6%

\* The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.



# Sodium

## Tips

- Read labels -5% low, 20% high
- Start early
- Low-sodium canned, frozen, packaged
- Rinse canned foods
- Prepare your own food

- Utilize herbs and spices
- Reduce portion size



# DGA Key Recommendations<sup>4</sup>

## ↑ Nutrient Dense Foods

*Meet food group needs with nutrient-dense foods and beverages*

- Vegetables – all colors!
- Fruits – whole
- Grains –  $\geq$  half whole grains
- Dairy – low fat or fortified alternatives
- Protein – lean meats, plant-based
- Oils – plant-based + food-based

## ↓ Sat. Fats, Sugars, Sodium & Alcohol

*Limit foods & beverages high in these components*

- Saturated fat - < 10% of cal
- Added sugars - < 10% of cal
- Sodium - < 2,300mg
- Alcohol -  $\leq$  2 drinks/day men  
 $\leq$  1 drink/day women

# Key Take-Aways

- Veg: variety, color, half of plate
- Grain: *Whole* grain, half of grains
- Sat fat: consider limits, dairy okay
- Sugar: food labels, <50g
- Sodium: low-Na options, food labels, <2300mg
- Cook at home, reduce processed food
- Improvements in *all* areas of diet important
- Diet patterns *over time*
- Focus on *additions* when making diet changes
- Room for *all* foods
- How does that food make you *feel*?

# Key Take-Aways

- DASH Diet
  - F/V
  - WGs
  - Low fat dairy
  - Lean meats, beans, nuts, seeds
  - Plant oils
  - Limit sat fat, sugar
- Vegetarian or Vegan Diet
  - No animal meat or products
  - Can be high in refined carbs
  - B12 deficiency possible

- Mediterranean Diet
  - F/V
  - WGs
  - Dairy
  - Lean meats, beans, nuts, seeds
  - Fish, seafood
  - Olive oil
  - Wine

Photo: [Harvard Health, 2024.](#)



# Recipe Modification – 15 minutes

- Breakout rooms
- Brief introductions
- Navigate to google slide deck
- Choose one recipe from options
- Choose a scribe
- Decide substitutions, additions, other
- Share out upon returning
- Consider the DGA Key Recommendations
- Substitution – swapping ingredient
- Addition – item not listed to add
- Other – side dish, spin off, ingredient consideration

# Thank You! & Questions

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Photo: [Vermont Business Magazine](#)

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